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### **Warrior and Family Services open doors for Guardsmen**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** — Staff from the Alaska National Guard Warrior and Family Services Office completed their third of six statewide open-house events at the National Guard Armory, here, March 15-16.

One hundred twenty seven Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard's 38th Troop Command learned firsthand of the 17 programs that are directly or indirectly connected with the Warrior and Family Services Office during the event.

"A recurring theme during the Warrior and Family Services open house was the relief from Soldiers that they did not have to sit through another PowerPoint presentation to learn about the programs and services that are available, but actually got to interact directly with those they had a specific interest," said Col. Jeffery Roach, commander, 38th Troop Command, Alaska Army National Guard. "One Soldier attended the Open House on the first day and then brought his family back the following day because he was so impressed with the information available."

With the many programs and resources available to Guardsmen, attempting to navigate the various offices and procedures can be confusing and time consuming. The Alaska National Guard Warrior and Family Services Office offers a streamlined and consolidated channel for Guardsmen to access these resources to help alleviate these difficulties.

"Soldiers walked away with a new understanding of what's available to them and their families at no cost," said Paola Pacheco, Family Assistance Center Specialist.

Access to services for Guardsmen start with the Family Assistance Center, which employees coined the "Google of the Guard," a one-stop shop for anything that has to do with challenges that Guardsmen and their families may face, as well as educational opportunities that are available them.

The resource, referral and educational opportunities available to Guardsmen include programs such as; victim advocates, sexual assault response coordinators, counseling, suicide prevention, Military OneSource, resiliency training, Life in a Box, 4 Lenses, youth camps, Finance 101, Resiliency for Youth, disaster preparedness, alternative education, employment, transition off deployment orders and/or out of the National Guard, and community resource and referral, which includes free tutoring, assistance with housing,

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utilities, and rent assistance.

The Alaska National Guard Warrior and Family Services Office will be hosting two additional open-house events this week in Fairbanks and Fort Greely.

"Guardsmen and their families are invited to attend one of the two remaining open-house events, including a hiring fair, taking place on March 27 at the Fairbanks Armory, and March 28 at Fort Greely," said Lt. Col. Kay Spear-Bud, director of the State Family Program, Alaska National Guard. "If other units would like to participate in an open-house event, they should contact their Family Readiness Support Assistant."

For more information, service members can "like" the Warrior and Family Service Office's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/AKNGFamily>.

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